(b) A Statement is annexed *(See* below).

Statement

The following incentives are offered to the exporters of garments and Knitwear:—

1. Sophisticate garment manufacturing machines not manufactured indigenously are allowed to be imported on OGL. As many as 19 machines for garment and hosiery manufacture have been placed under OGL, 97 of them enjoying concessional import duty.

2. Revised rates of CCS have been announced effective from 1st July, 1986. These rates have been announced for a period of 3 years and are generally higher than before. Slow moving items of garments on which CCS was not admissible when exported to quota countries have been made eligible for CCS.

3. Cotton garments and textiles have been brought under the scheme of Contract Registration with a view to providing an element of certainty to exporters in the matter of CCS.

4. The Fashion Technology Institute in Delhi for education research and training in the areas of fashion design for garment manufacture has been set up.

5. In order to encourage improvement in the quality of cotton yarn, excise duty on auto-coners manufactured domestically has been reduced from 15 per cent to 5 per cent w.e.f. 11.5.1987.

6. The duty drawback rates for cotton garments have been increased to 10 per cent.

7. The number of days of pre-shipment credit has been increased from 90 days to 180 days. The rate of interest has also been reduced by 2.5 per cent.

8. Many items of raw -material fabrics are permitted to be imported under Duty Free REP Scheme and the Import-Export Pass Book Scheme.

9. The scope of Advance Licensing and Pass Book Schemes has been wid ened and procedures simplified.

10. Under 100 per cent Export Units and Free Trade Zones Scheme, facilities for liberal import of capital goods and raw -materials alongwith many other concessions are given.

11. Government has been giving liberal assistance for sponsoring and funding promotional activities such as market-studies, buyer-seller-msets, participation in international fairs and exhibitions.

12. Permission for use of foreign brand names for domestic sales has been approved in the case of ready-made garments with the stipulation that only indigenous fabrics are used; at least 75 per cent of the production is exported ana no royalties are allowed on domestic sales.

13. The agency commission has been increased and rules for blanket permission for foreign exchange have been substantially liberalised.

Steps to combat communal Forces

2540. SHRl PAWAN KUMAR BAN SAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) what fresh steps Government propose to take to combat communal forces in the country; and

(b) whether a proposal to bin communal parties from contesting any election is also under Government's consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND. THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE[r] MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Law and order is a State subject. It is the primary responsibility of the State Govern-

ments to ensure peace and to take all necessary steps to combat communal forces in the country. However, the Central Government remain in constant touch from time to time with the State Governments anj provide necessary guidance and advice in devising ways and means to combat communal forces. State Governments have also been advised to streamline the administrative anj intelligence machinery and to take prompt action like arrest of anti-social elements, search and seizure for unauthorised arms and action against elements inciting communalism etc. Apart from this timely alert is sounded and guidance and advice provided as and when required. Administrative arrangements have also been tightened to combat activities of communal forces.

(b) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government. However, the electoral law, as it stands, contains suitable provisions for curbing any tendency to promote enmity or hatred on grounds of religion, caste, race, community or language in elections. The statute also regards such an act as an electoral offence and the person concerned shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to three years or with fine or with both. Further, the Model Code of Conduct for the guidance of the political rties and candidates evolved by the Election Commission prohibits and appeal to caste or communal feelings for securing votes.

Deterioration in the environment caused by mining in Raniganj Coalfield Area inWest Bengal

2541. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of 'the serious deterioration in the environ ment caused by mining in the Raniganj coalfield area in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps the Cent ral Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The remedial steps taken are:

Detailed environmental impact assessment of all development projects is. taken up to ensure that air, water and land pollution is minimised and is kept within the prescribed limits.

Necessary environmental safeguards are incorporated in new mining projects; and

Methodologies are evolved for reclamation of abandoned mines on the basis of pilot projects.

Privatisation of Forests

2542. SHRI J.P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the proposal of some State Governments to privatise forests;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether the Central Government are aware that some State Governments have privatised forests;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(e) what benefit is likely to accrue to the State Governments from the privatisation of forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Government of India have not approved any proposal to privatise forests.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Some cases of leasing of forest lands to private companies have been reported. Details are being cellected and will be laid on the Table of the House.